

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117706
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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:JHAWES
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DOD/ISA:MGLITMAN
DOD/ISA:HGAFFNEY
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EUR/CE:GHUMPHREY

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S E C R E T STATE 117706

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:NATO, MNUC, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT:NATO AIR DEFENSE - FRG RESPONSE

--- FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1977 FROM
MAJOR GENERAL JUERGEN BRANDT, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF
FOR POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS AND OPERATIONS, ARMED
FORCES STAFF, TO DASD/ISA MAYNARD W. GLITMAN IN RESPONSE
TO LATTER'S LETTER DATED 3 MAY 1977:

BEGIN TEXT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 117706

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER, WHICH I RECEIVED
THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS ON MAY 5, 1977. YOUR INITIATIVE
ON A US/FRG STAFF REVIEW OF AIR DEFENSE ISSUES AS AGREED
BY SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER LEBER IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED
AND ACKNOWLEDGED. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT
DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF AIR DEFENSE
ARE URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE LIGHT OF OUR AGING EQUIPMENT.

WE HAVE LEARNED WITH GREAT INTEREST THAT NATO HAS FINALLY ALSO REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AIR DEFENSE MATTERS. AS YOU MAY KNOW A STUDY ON LONG RANGE AIR DEFENSE PLANNING IS WELL UNDERWAY AT MC-LEVEL TO SERVE AS A VALUABLE DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF SESSION NEXT WEEK. THE

OUTCOME OF THE LAST CNAD CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAM-FOLLOW-ON SYSTEMS. IN ADDITION WE HAVE THE VERY ENCOURAGING BILATERAL WORK ON QTE PROJECT SUCCESSOR UNQTE AND ARE ALMOST COMPLETE WITH SOME CONCEPTUAL IN-DOOR DOCUMENTS FOR THE LUFTWAFFE.

AFTER THIS WE FEEL THAT GERMANY IS LATE IN AIR DEFENSE PLANNING BUT A GOOD DEAL AHEAD IN COMPARISON WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES. IN OUR OPINION AIR DEFENSE IS AND MUST REMAIN A MULTINATIONAL EFFORT. ESPECIALLY, WE DO NOT FIND A GOOD SOLUTION FOR SUBSTITUTING THE SAM BELT CONCEPT WITH ANYTHING OF EQUAL COST-EFFECTIVENESS FOR THE AIR DEFENSE OF THE CENTRAL REGION AND WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE PRESENT PARTICIPATION MELTING FURTHER DOWN TO TWO OR ONE NATION. IT MIGHT VERY WELL BE THAT OUR PUSHING AHEAD IS MISUNDERSTOOD BY OUR NEIGHBOR PARTNERS WITHIN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN BELT SYSTEM.

NEVERTHELESS WE SHOULD - AS YOU SUGGESTED - START WITH INFORMAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND MAYBE PRODUCE A FIRM MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING FOR A SOLID CONTRIBUTION TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 117706

THE ONGOING NATO-ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF AIR DEFENSE. HOWEVER IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO MAKE APPROPRIATE PREPARATIONS DURING THESE BUSY WEEKS PRECEDING THE MANY HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCES. SO WE PREFER TO POSTPONE INITIAL BUT SUBSTANTIAL STAFF TALKS UNTIL LATE IN JUNE OR EARLY IN JULY AND TO AGREE ON A COMMON AGENDA PRIOR TO THE DATE STILL REMAINING TO BE SPECIFIED. MAY I PROPOSE TO EXCHANGE OUR IDEAS ON THE SCOPE DURING THE NPG MINISTERIAL SESSION. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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